

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK

Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi

January 2007

JANUARY HAPPENINGS

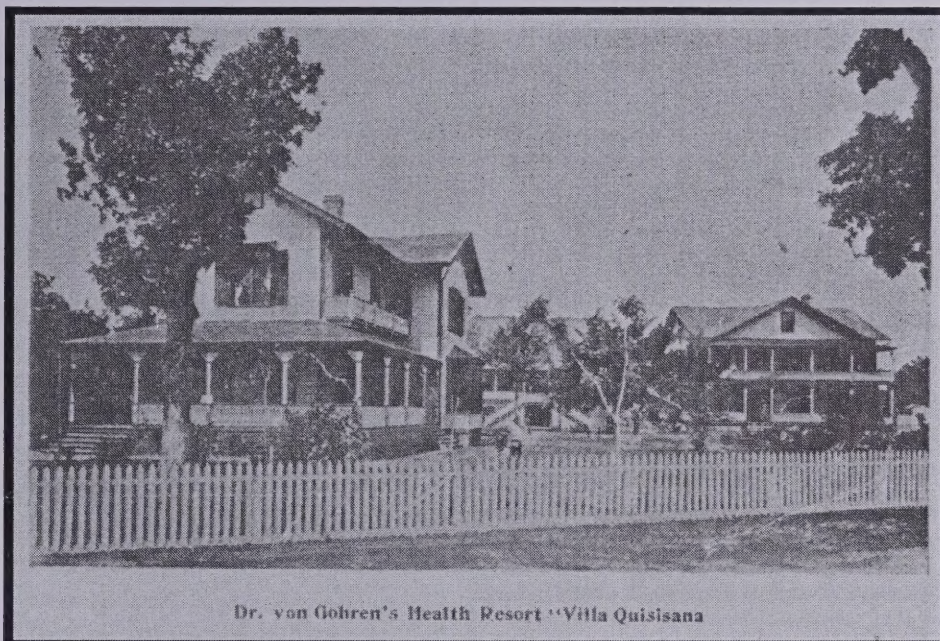
The January luncheon will be held on Thursday, January 18 at noon at the Kate Lobrano House, 108 Cue Street. The speaker will be Jimmie Ladner, Hancock County Tax Assessor. Join us for a wonderful lunch and great company. Please call for reservations at 467-4090 because the seating will be limited. The price of the lunch is \$7.00 payable at the door. Members will recognize a familiar face in the kitchen beginning this month: Prima Luke. The Society extends her a very warm welcome.

MEMBERSHIP FEES

It's time to send in your membership dues for 2007. If you are unsure about whether your fees are due, the date on your address label is the expiration date.

NEW ADDRESS

THE HANCOCK COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. BOX 3356
BAY ST. LOUIS, MS. 39521



Dr. von Gohren's Health Resort "Villa Quisisana"

The above picture comes from *Along the Gulf*, 1895.

Villa Quisisana

Edited by
Eddie Coleman

Herman Ludwig von Gohren was born in 1844 in Strausburg, Germany. Emigrating from Saxony to the United States aboard the *S. S. Hanover* at age sixteen, he subsequently became a medical doctor in New Orleans and married Catherine Beret, who was from France, probably from Alsace-Lorraine. In the mid-1800's he and his family moved to Bay Saint Louis. After moving to

the Bay, Dr. von Gohren established a health resort for "invalids, convalescents, and other people who may desire a change of air" (*Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*).

In the book *Along the Gulf* (1895), Charles Lawrence Dyer gives the following description of Dr. von Gohren and his health resort:

"It was on the third day that our party took a trip out to Dr. von Gohren's villa which had been strongly recommended to us as a beautiful health resort. Dr. L. H. von Gohren evidently thought that the climate and surroundings of Bay St. Louis were the finest to

THE

HISTORIAN

OF HANCOCK COUNTY

Published monthly by the
**HANCOCK COUNTY
 HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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 Randy Adam, First Vice President
 Mary Perkins, Second Vice President
 Camille Tate, Treasurer
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108 Cue Street,
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 P. O. Box 3356
 Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39521

Telephone/Fax [228] 467-4090
 Notice our new Email address:
hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net

LOBRANO HOUSE HOURS

MONDAY — FRIDAY
 10:00AM — 3:00PM

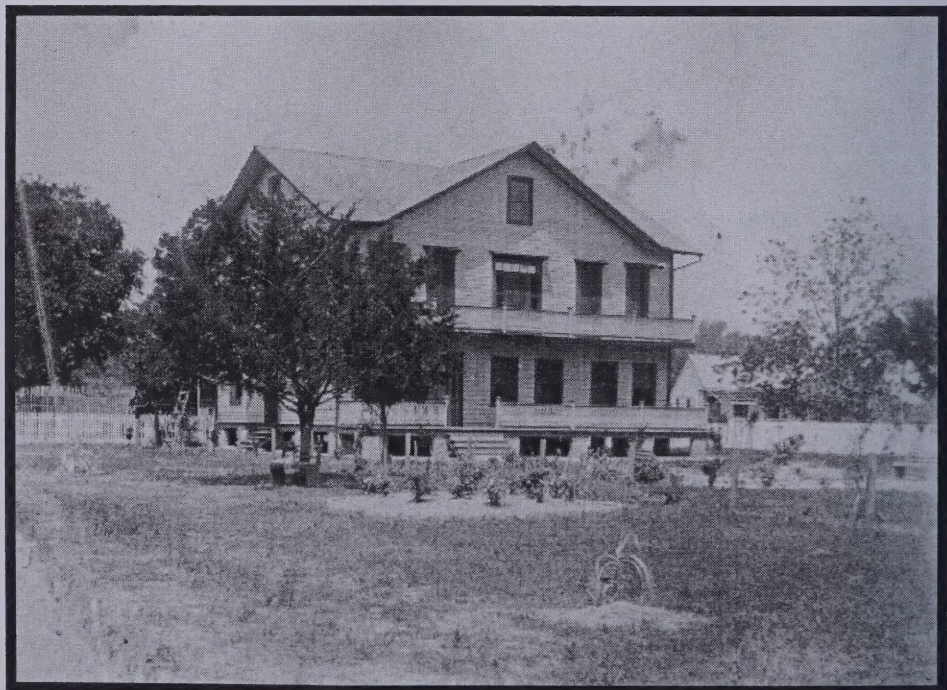
Closed from 12:00—1:00.
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MISSION STATEMENT

"TO PRESERVE THE GENERAL AND ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY OF HANCOCK COUNTY AND TO PRESERVE THE KATE LOBRANO HOUSE AND COLLECTIONS THEREIN; TO RESEARCH AND INTERPRET LIFE IN HANCOCK COUNTY; AND TO ENCOURAGE AN APPRECIATION OF AND INTEREST IN HISTORICAL PRESERVATION."

be found anywhere in the whole Southern Country for invalids when he established his health resort here. This beautiful estate, which the doctor has named 'Villa Quisiana,' is situated on the front street a short pleasant drive or walk from the station near the entrance of the Bay. There are several large, well built, well ventilated and finely furnished houses on the grounds, spacious lawns, shade trees, tennis and croquet courts and in short everything to make life on the coast worth the living. The doctor, a genial gentleman in the prime of life, keeps his resort open all the year round for the reception of guests, invalids, convalescents and other people who may desire a change of air or wish to sojourn on the Gulf Coast for their recreation[They] will find here every

thing arranged for their comfort. Physicians, who may recommend the Villa Quisiana to their patients and who desire to have the treatment continued which was begun under their care, will find full attention given to such cases and weekly reports will be forwarded to them if desired. At the Villa are separate apartments for such patients and their meals will be prepared according to directions given by the physician. This establishment also has facilities for Hydro and Electro Therapeutic treatment in connection with massage, Swedish movements, as well as the dietetic treatment, anti-fat and water cure and other Mechano-Therapeutic healing methods, etc. There are also connected with the Villa a system of baths of almost every description, medicated and mineral water



Home of Dr. von Gohren at 630 North Beach Boulevard
From the Jermyn Collection



R. R. Perkins home at 630 North Beach Boulevard

baths, electric and shower baths, etc., making altogether the most perfectly equipped institution of this kind in the State."

Dr. von Gohren was quite civic-minded and served the City of Bay St. Louis as City Councilman in the late nineteenth/early twentieth centuries. In fact, his name can be found on the east face of the cornerstone of the City Hall. Old *Sea Coast Echo* clippings contain numerous stories of social events hosted by the von Gohrens as well as listings of prominent visitors to the health resort. Dr. von Gohren died in 1906 and is buried in Cedar Rest Cemetery. His wife followed him in 1908.

Villa Quisiana stood at 630 North Beach Boulevard and after the death of Dr. von Gohren continued to serve the citizens of Bay Saint Louis. Because of the destruction of St. Joseph's Academy in the 1907 fire, the sisters of St. Joseph "rented the old von Gohren

Point Comfort home...and continued the school session without interruption" (*Louisiana's Loss, Mississippi's Gain*).

The von Gohren home was later sold to Mr. R. R. Perkins and stood at his 630 North Beach Boulevard address until it was removed to make way for the new U. S. 90 bridge in the early 1950's.

THE JERMYN COLLECTION

Mr. Paul Jermyn of Pass Christian recently donated copies of numerous old photographs and postcards he has been fortunate enough to accumulate from various sources including the internet. Most of them are of Bay Saint Louis and Waveland, but a few are from throughout Hancock County. The Society thanks him for his most generous and gracious donation.

Many of the pictures have been identified by the original owner (s), but to double check the identity and to keep accurate records, we will include at least one photo in several forthcoming issues of the *Historian*. If you recognize the place or people pictured or can give additional history or anecdotes about the area or people in the photo, please call the Society at 228-467-4090 or e mail us at hancockcountyhis@bellsouth.net.



This picture from the Jermyn Collection appears to be of the area surrounding the depot. The person who originally identified the picture simply wrote "Bay St. Louis." Can anyone help identify it further?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The new year 2007 is beginning, and we have two new members of the Hancock County Historical Society Board of Directors to introduce to you. Camille Tate will take over as treasurer from Ruth Thompson, and Doris Muniz will turn over the first vice presidency to Randy Adam. I want to thank our outgoing Board members who have done an excellent job and welcome our two new members onboard.

Volunteers are a big part of our Society's history. If you can give us a little of your time, we would surely appreciate it. I know that this is a tall order in the aftermath of this hurricane, but your participation will give you a greater sense of belonging within the Society.

We would like to see some volunteers step up and serve as hosts/ hostesses at the Halloween or Christmas party next season. It would be nice to have a committee to decorate a Christmas tree for the Library Gala next year. We could really use someone to launder the tablecloths and napkins after the luncheon meeting. Our dear Charles and the staff have been taking care of these duties, and it would be nice to give them a rest. Kitchen help the day of the meeting is always necessary. We may need some assistance as a host or hostess on Tuesdays for a while. If you can assist for two hours in the morning or two hours in the afternoon, we would

appreciate it very much.

There are so many little jobs, and I know that you could fit one of them in somewhere. Please try to assist us. You know what I always say, "If everyone does a little, no one has to do a lot."

Thank you,
Melinda

NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED

The installation of the 2007 officers of the Hancock County Historical Society was held at the Kate Lobrano House at noon on Thursday, December 7, 2006. Bay Saint Louis City Councilman Jim Thriffley officiated at the brief ceremony. Each officer was presented with a certificate to commemorate his term of service.

Serving as president for the second year is Melinda Richard, who has done an outstanding job leading the society during this difficult past year. Randy Adam begins his term as first vice president. Serving as second vice president is Mary Perkins. Zita Waller remains as secretary, and Lili Stahler continues as the publicity chairman. Newly elected treasurer Camille Tate joins the Board as Jerry Zimmerman begins his term as historian. Membership chairman is Ellis Cuevas, and Charles Gray continues to serve as the Executive Director of the Historical Society.

CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY BY MAILING YOUR 2007 DUES EARLY.



HANCOCK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pictured from left to right: Camille Tate—treasurer; Jerry Zimmerman—historian; Mary Perkins—second vice president; Melinda Richard—president; Randy Adam—first vice president; Lili Stahler—publicity chairman; Zita Waller—secretary; Charles Gray—executive director. Not pictured—Ellis Cuevas—membership chairman.

Memories of WAVELAND

A watercolor by Kathe Calhoun.



*Kathe does it
again!*



WAVELAND -

Before the Storm

City Hall, St. Clare, The Garfield Ladner Pier plus several other Memories

Prints (16" x 23") are \$20. They are available at Blue Heron Frame Shop, 300 Hwy 90, Waveland, 228-469-0944 (They will also accept orders to be shipped), Behold Fine Art and Framing 835 Highway 90 Bay St. Louis. and Trailer #8 at the Waveland City Services Complex (Coleman and Central). Proceeds are for the Rebuilding Waveland Civic Center on Coleman Avenue.

A DAY AT THE RACES

The Hancock County Historical Society is sponsoring "A Day at the Races" on Monday, January 22, 2007. The cost of the trip is \$29.00 which includes bus travel to the New Orleans Fairgrounds in addition to admission to the Clubhouse. The bus will pick up passengers at the Diamondhead Community Center at 10:30 A. M. and at the K Mart parking lot in Waveland at 10:45 A. M. For further details, please call Doris Muniz at 228-255-3345.

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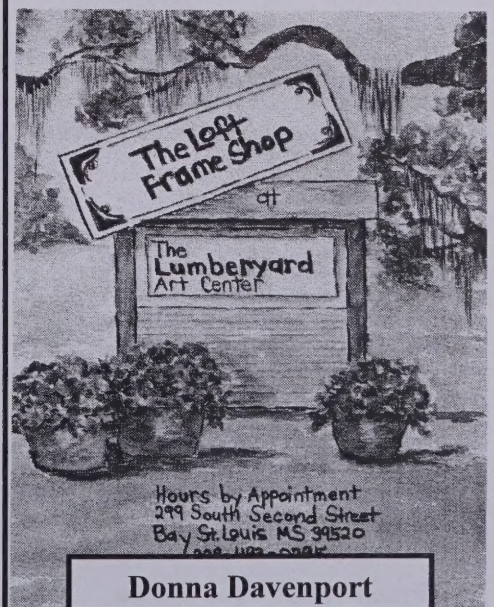
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MONTHLY TOURS & TRIPS

January 22, 2007—*A Day at the Races*—\$29.00
Clubhouse admission included!

Bus Pick up: 10:30 A. M.—Diamondhead Com. Center
10:45 A. M.—K Mart parking lot, Waveland

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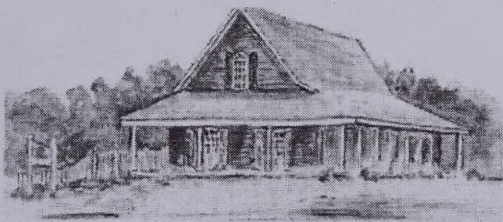
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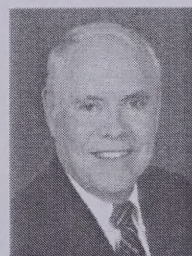
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Charles B. Benvenutti

Certified Public Accountant

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831 Highway 90
P.O. Box 2639
Bay St. Louis, MS
39521-2639

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Fax 228-467-2594
Email: Chuck@Benvenutticpa.com

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